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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 DODE-00 EUR-08 SAM-01 PRS-01

IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-05 PM-03 L-01 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:JVMONTVILLE
APPROVED BY P MR. SISCO
EUR: MR. LAINGEN
H-AMB. MCCLOSKEY (INFO)
DOD/ISA: COL. SKOGERBOE
NEA-MR. ATHERTON
S-S:REWOODS
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P 150023Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113002

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PROR, PBOR, SP, SS, MO

SUBJECT:KING HASSAN'S FRENCH RADIO INTERVIEW ON SPANISH
SAHARA

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

REF: A. RABAT 2081 E. MADRID 3056
B. MADRID 2970 F. RABAT 2137 (NOTAL)
C. STATE 27758 G. PARIS 11239
D. RABAT 2134
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1. APPARENT RENEWED MILITANCE OF KING HASSAN ON SAHARA
ISSUE AS REVEALED IN FRENCH RADIO INTERVIEW APRIL 28
(REF A) IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN IN DEPARTMENT. AS OUTLINED IN
REF C, MOROCCAN AGGRESSIVENESS ON TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST

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SPAIN COMPLICATES SENSITIVE U.S.-SPANISH RELATIONS, BECAUSE OF RESPONSIVE U.S. ARMS SUPPLY POLICY TOWARD MOROCCO. ALTHOUGH U.S. REMAINS NEUTRAL ON MERITS OF MOROCCAN CLAIMS IT CANNOT, BECAUSE OF ITS MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH PARTIES, REMAIN NEUTRAL ON MODALITIES EMPLOYED TO RESOLVE THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTES.

2. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI, TO EXPRESS USG CONCERN GENERATED BY KING'S REMARKS IN FRENCH RADIO INTERVIEW THAT MOROCCO MAY BE CHANGING ITS APPROACH IN DISPUTE WITH SPAIN FROM PEACEFUL DIPLOMATIC AND JUDICIAL CHANNELS, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY GOM'S SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL TO REFER SAHARA QUESTION TO ICJ, TO MORE MILITANT POSTURE. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT U.S. SUPPORTS PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTES WITH SPAIN NOT ONLY TO PRESERVE STABILITY IN AREA, BUT ALSO BECAUSE U.S. MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH SIDES COULD CAUSE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR U.S. IF OTHER THAN PEACEFUL METHODS ARE USED.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO SEEK LARAKI'S VIEW ON STATUS OF ICJ ADJUDICATION OF SAHARA CASE AND ASK HIM HOW GOM CONCEIVES OF ROLE ICJ DECISION WOULD PLAY IN FINAL RESOLUTION OF QUESTION.

4. WHEN EXCHANGE ON SAHARA IS COMPLETED, YOU SHOULD TELL LARAKI YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION OF KING HASSAN'S CONFIDENCE EXPRESSED TO YOU IN APRIL 30 AUDIENCE (REF F) AND IN "FIGARO" INTERVIEW MAY 2 (REF G) THAT U.S. COULD EMERGE IN STRONG POSITION IN POST-VIETNAM ERA. YOU SHOULD ASK LARAKI TO REASSURE KING THAT U.S. INTENDS TO CONTINUE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN SEARCH FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE. REGARDING KING'S RECOM-MENDATION THAT U.S. SHOULD MOVE FORWARD ON MIDDLE EAST IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL,YOU SHOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR ADVICE AND CONFIDENTIAL

NOTE THAT AS PROCESS OF REASSESSMENT OF U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY CONTINUES, WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH UNSC PERMANENT MEMBERS ON BILATERAL BASIS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT UTILITY OF SECURITY COUNCIL ITSELF AS EFFECTIVE FORUM FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACEMAKING.

5. FOR MADRID: YOU MAY INFORM GOS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF DEMARCHE IN PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE AFTER RABAT CONFIRMS THAT IT HAS BEEN MADE. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM MINISTRY OF ARMY OFFICIAL QUOTED REF B THAT U.S. IS NOT PROVIDING MOROCCAN ARMY WITH ANY KIND OF INSURGENCY OR INFILTRATION TRAINING. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM ANY GOS OFFICIALS WHO RAISE MATTER THAT USG CONTINUES TO BE SENSITIVE TO SPANISH CONCERNS OVER OUR MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH

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MOROCCO. THE GOM IS AWARE OF THIS US ATTITUDE AND HAS NOT
GIVEN US ANY REASON TO SUSPECT THAT IT WILL DEPART FROM
KING'S STATED POLICY NOT TO USE US SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT
AGAINST FRIENDS OF U.S. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE113002
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/AFN:JVMONTVILLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750170-0070
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505102/baaaajqu.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SP, SS, MO, (HASSAN II)
To: RABAT
MADRID INFO USUN N Y
ALGIERS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006